

Wilmington Friends Meeting House
4th and West Streets
Wilmington
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-203

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DEL,
2-WILM,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE DELAWARE	COUNTY NEW CASTLE	TOWN OR VICINITY WILMINGTON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) WILMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE		HABS NO. DE-203
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Fourth and West Streets		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1815-17 (date in endwall)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) None	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Early Wilmington's population was predominantly Quaker. On the highest piece of ground they built their meeting house and settled around it in an area of the city now known as Quaker Hill. The Quakers were among the most prominent families in Wilmington and their meeting house was one of the most important religious structures in the city. (contd)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick bearing wall on brick foundation, wood joists and floors, asphalt-shingled roof, wood windows and doors set in wood surrounds wood trim		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, approximately 42' X 60' with rectangular wing at rear connected by a full-length shed-roofed addition		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Red brick laid in Flemish bond on the facade, pedimented gable endwalls, date carved in plaster inset at peak of gable, four sets of double-panelled doors under pillared porticos, 12 over 12 and 8 over 12 light sash, 4-panelled shutters; wing has hip-roof.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Symmetrical interior plan, one large room with gallery on 3 sides and open corridor along balustrade, coved-plaster sounding board along west wall, dark-stained wainscotting and interior trim, dog-legged stairs in northeast and southeast corners		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Shed-roofed addition (19th century), rear hip-roofed addition (1951), removal of bottom half of moveable partition which was counter-balanced to rise from cellar and lower from attic dividing the meeting room in two (top portion is fixed in attic) (date unknown), removal of stepped seats in gallery and (cont.)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The building is in excellent condition and is actively in use by the Wilmington Monthly Meeting of Friends.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places, Delaware Cultural Resource Survey (N-874)		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Joan N. Larrivee, State of Delaware, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs		DATE May 22, 1986

SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

The present meeting house is an excellent example of the type of structure built by the Quakers for worship in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. They stressed high quality workmanship and simplicity of detail.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS (cont.)

installation of glass partitions to create classrooms (date unknown),
installation of glassed-in office on south end (date unknown)